Join us! Come explore the heritage and delights of the amazing country of Japan!

- Visit World Heritage Sites and National Treasures, palaces, and gardens. Venture up Mt. Fuji to the 5th station, and ferry across the Inland Sea to the Itsukushima Shrine on the little island of Miyajima.

- Take the Express Train to Nagoya and Kyoto, and the Komagatake Ropeway (cable car) to the summit of Mt. Komagatake for spectacular views. Venture out on Lake Ashi for more spectacular views of Mt Fuji.

- Revel in the magnificence of modern Tokyo and the Tokyo Tower and the contrasting sublime beauty of the Imperial Palace Plaza and gardens.

- Discover the ancient heritage of Japan in Takayama in the Japanese Alps, and in historic Kyoto and Nara.

- Travel with an excellent national guide and a multilingual expedition leader who is very comfortable in Asian cultures and who can help you get the most out of your trip to Japan.

Please join us for a delightful adventure in Japan with a great variety of memorable experiences!
Days 1/2  Los Angeles to Narita, Japan
Depart Los Angeles on a 1:20 pm Japan Airlines flight to Narita, arriving in late afternoon on Day 2. Meet our guide and transfer to Tokyo and our Hotel (3 nights).

Day 3  Tokyo
Today we’ll explore the vibrant city of Tokyo, an extraordinary blend of modern highrises and city activity, with a rich cultural heritage. We will visit the Imperial Palace Plaza, situated between the Imperial Palace and modern Tokyo office buildings. Through the plaza stretches lawn with pine groves, and a fountain commemorates the marriage of the Emperor and Empress. We will also see the Asakusa (Sensoji) Temple, the oldest and most impressive temple in Tokyo. The area bustles with Japanese people praying, buying fortunes, or shopping.

We will see the Tokyo Tower in the afternoon, with magnificent views of Ginza, Tokyo Bay, Yokohama, and Mt. Fuji from its uppermost observation deck. It is the world’s tallest self-supporting iron structure, 13 meters higher than the Eiffel Tower. We will then visit the lovely Hamarikyu Garden, the only surviving seaside garden of Japan’s Edo Period. It was constructed as a residence for a Japanese feudal lord in the 17th Century. B,L,D

Leadership
Leading this expedition will be Betchart leader Cynthia Gould.

Cynthia has a Master’s in Asian Studies from UC Berkeley and has been studying Japan since childhood. She has led Asia trips for Betchart for 15 years to India and Nepal, and will co-lead the Indonesia Total Eclipse Expedition in 2016.

Cynthia has been a frequent visitor to Japan and speaks Japanese. She spent a year there studying language, tea ceremony, flower arrangement, and music. She is especially interested in Japanese history, Buddhist traditions, arts, and architecture. Cynthia is involved with Bonsai and Suiseki groups in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Cynthia and our Japan national guide look forward to showing you Japan.

Itinerary
**Day 4  Mt. Fuji & Lake Ashi**

We will depart for 3,776 m Mt. Fuji this morning, the highest and most popular mountain in Japan. The base of Mt. Fuji is almost a perfect circle 35 to 40 km wide. It has been inactive for the last 250 years, but smoke rising from its crater used to be a familiar part of the landscape. We will go up to the 5th station of Mt. Fuji by coach.

After lunch, we will go to Hakone and board an excursion boat at Lake Ashi to cruise around this crater lake which is a mecca for fishermen. Lake Ashi is well known for its reflection of Mt. Fuji. We will then take the Komagatake Ropeway (cable car) to the top of Mt. Komagatake for a view of Mt. Fuji, Lake Ashi, Mt. Futago and mountains of the Izu Peninsula. B,L

**Day 5  Tokyo — Nagoya — Gujo — Hachiman & Takayama**

Today we will travel by JR super express train to Nagoya Station. We’ll depart for Gujo-Hachiman, known for making food replicas that many restaurants put on display to entice diners. We’ll visit the Sample Village, the first replica workshop, which opened in 1932. Then continue to Takayama, a charming historic city in the mountainous Hida region. It has a traditional feel like few other cities in Japan, with a beautifully preserved old town. *Takayama Hotel (2 nights).* B,L,D

**Day 6  Takayama — Japanese Alps**

This morning we will explore Takayama, including the morning markets, a 400-year-old tradition. We will visit the Takayama Jinya, built in 1615, once the seat of local government. It is the only building of its kind in Japan. It resembles a palace, with buildings set within strong walls, with an imposing gate.

In the rear is a large granary where rice, the “currency” of pre-modern Japan, was stored. We will also see the festival exhibition hall where several of the floats used in the bi-annual festival are displayed. We will get acquainted with the old district. At leisure this afternoon. B

**Day 7  Shirakawago — Kanazawa**

We will drive to Shirakawago this morning to visit the Historic Village, a World Heritage Site and open air museum of traditional architecture. Here, roofs have a steep 60 degree pitch because of the heavy snowfalls. Most are on a north-south axis so the roof sides get equal sunlight and the snow melts evenly.

After lunch, we will go to Kanazawa and see Omicho Market. We will learn about the gold leaf traditional industry, which is used for Buddhist altars, lacquerware, and textiles. *Kanazawa Hotel.* B,L

**Day 8  Kanazawa & Kyoto**

We will explore Kanazawa this morning, including the Kemroku Garden, one of the most beautiful in Japan. Originally a private
garden next to Kanazawa castle, it was started in the 1620’s, and focuses on Kasumigaike Pond. We will visit the Higashi-chaya district, an old amusement district where geisha lived.

Now teahouses are converted into coffee shops. Some former teahouses are open to the public including Kaika-ro teahouse with a 170-year-old tradition. We will visit the Higashi-chaya district, an old amusement district where geisha lived. Now teahouses are converted into coffee shops. Some former teahouses are open to the public including Kaika-ro teahouse with a 170-year-old tradition.

We will continue to Nagamachi, a short walk on narrow, cobblestone streets to homes of the samurai. We will visit the Nomura house which gives you the feel of returning to the days of the samurai. Afternoon JR limited express train, the Thunderbird, to Kyoto Station. Kyoto Hotel (3 nights). B,L

**Day 9 Historic Kyoto**

We will discover historic Kyoto today. Kiyomizu Temple offers a panoramic view of Kyoto. It was built in 1633 by Iemitsu, the third of the Tokugawa shoguns. We will also visit Kiyomizu Ninen-zaka and Sannan-zaka, which retain the flavor of old Kyoto and are important examples of traditional architecture.

We will also see the Heian Jingu Shrine, dedicated to the founder of Kyoto, and the Emperor Komei, the last emperor to reign at Kyoto. Its buildings are small replicas of the first Imperial Palace built in Kyoto in 794.

We will also participate in a tea ceremony. B,L

**Day 10 National Treasures in Historic Nara**

Today we will visit the magnificent historic sites in Nara. Todaiji Temple was completed in 752 and includes three National Treasures: an imposing gate, the Hall of the great Buddha, and The Great Buddha, a 50-foot high figure on a huge bronze pedestal, completed in 749. We will also explore Nara Park, known for its 1,200 deer and temples, and Kasuga Taisha Shrine. B,L

**Day 11 Kyoto — Hiroshima Peace Park**

We will take the JR super express train to Hiroshima station this morning. We will visit the Peace Memorial Park, which symbolizes Hiroshima’s wishes for everlasting peace.

We will also see the Atomic Bomb Dome, the only damaged building still standing in Hiroshima, now a World Heritage site. The Peace Memorial Museum is a moving reminder of the event, including the restoration of the city. Hiroshima Hotel. B,L
Day 12 Miyajima Inland Sea & Itsukushima World Heritage Site

We will take the Miyajima Ferry to Itsukushima Shrine this morning. Miyajima is a small island in the Inland Sea. The shrine was established in 593. Its corridor stretches into the calm Inland Sea and at high tides it seems to float on the sea. Depart for Shin-Osaka by JR super express train.

Farewell dinner in celebration of our adventure. Osaka Hotel, B,D

Day 13 Osaka to USA

At leisure in Osaka until mid-afternoon airport transfer for flight back to Los Angeles, arriving the same day. B

RESPONSIBILITY

Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, and the American Chemical Society (ACS) act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

Yes! I/we want to join the Japan Expedition, May 14-26, 2017, offered by AAAS Travels, Sigma Xi, ACS Expeditions & The Planetary Society. Please reserve ______ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for $_______ ($500 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) __________________________ Age __________

___________________________ Age __________

Address __________________________________________

City ______________________ State __ Zip __________

Phone: Home (______)________________________

Work (______)________________________

Email Address __________________________

Membership: ___ AAAS ___ Sigma Xi ___ ACS ___ Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

___ Twin ___ Single ___ Twin Share: ___ with a friend or

___ Nonsmoker ___ Smoker ___ assign a roommate

Signature __________________________ Date __________

Signature __________________________ Date __________

Please Mail To: Japan’s Heritage 2017

Betchart Expeditions Inc.

17050 Montebello Road

Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

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Map by April Mline.

CST# 2036304-40
Discover Japan’s Heritage!
May 14-26, 2017

**Costs & Conditions**

**Trip Fee:** $5,495 per person twin share plus air fare from Los Angeles $1,195 to Tokyo with return from Osaka.

**Expedition Fee Includes:** Land transport by coach and train; group airport transfers; accommodations twin share; breakfasts, 8 lunches, 3 dinners; tips to drivers and local guides; entrance fees; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

**Expedition Fee Does Not Include:** Air Fare Los Angeles to Japan, RT (quoted separately); some meals; gratuities to expedition leader or national guide; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, beverages at meals, alcoholic beverages, sodas, snacks, personal insurance, or foreign airport departure taxes.

**What to Expect:** This expedition is planned for travelers who want an excellent overview of the heritage of Japan, including World Heritage Sites and National Treasures, palaces and gardens; Mt. Fuji, the Inland Sea, and other scenic wonders; and contemporary Japan. You will travel with an excellent national guide and an expedition leader who is very comfortable in Asian cultures, speaks the language, and can help you get the most out of your experience in Japan.

There will be sightseeing by motorcoach, travel by high speed rail, excursions by ferry, boat, and cable car. It will be late spring with some rain and temperatures in the 60s or low 70s and 50s at night. This expedition will be a tremendous experience for travelers who would enjoy the camaraderie of a group adventure in Japan with a charming and informative leader. (No smoking in vehicles or meals please.)

**Hotel Accommodations:** Are in excellent first class hotels twin share with private bath. You will take your carryon on the train to Takayama or Kyoto for overnights (your suitcase will travel separately and arrive the next day). Single accommodations are a supplement of $895.

**Air Fare & Airline Ticketing:** Please phone Marisa at Betchart Expeditions, (800) 467-9376 for information about group Japan Airlines flights. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**Reservations, Deposits, & Payments:** Please mail a deposit of $500 pp with the completed reservation form to:

Japan Heritage 2017
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

The balance is due 60 days before departure.

**Questions:** Please call Marisa Eide
Marisa Direct line: (800) 467 9376
Betchchart Phone: (800) 252 4910
Fax: (408) 252 1444
Email: betchartexmarisa@earthlink.net

**Cancellations & Refunds:**

The initial deposit is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of $100 per person.

There is no refund after the 60-day period unless your place is resold, then only the $100 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals or other expedition features.